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Your 1936

In reviewing planning for contingency of Soviet withdrawal from Berlin access checkpoints, we realized one practical problem which would arise would be that of assuring GDR checkpoint personnel could immediately recognize Allied movements as such. Since we have in effect acquiesced in GDR control of non-Allied traffic we believe it would be unreasonable expect checkpoint personnel give Allied traffic different treatment unless Allied movement recognizable as such. Berlin's 726 confirmed our impression existing identification probably not adequate.

We do not believe it practicable attempt give detailed guidance re identification procedures and prefer these be worked out on spot in Germany. Embassy may however find following general comments helpful:

(a) Basic

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(a) Basic consideration is that most desirable method of identification is that which involves least contact with GDR personnel.

(b) By this standard best solution would be painting or affixing plainly legible sign to each unit as suggested Berlin's 680 or uniform use of military license plates. (We were under impression military trains already adequately identifiable as such and thus did not consider it necessary develop any special identification procedures for them. However if Embassy believes identification is required for trains or individual railway cars, procedures analogous to those for vehicles should be worked out.)

(c) Establishing identity of Allied movement by displaying some sort of document is obviously less desirable because it amounts to further step in direction of dealing with GDR personnel. However if tripartite agreement cannot be reached to limit identification to procedure suggest (b) above, we would be prepared as last resort consider display of appropriate form of documentary identification on conditions: (1) form and validity of documentation would not be discussed with GDR officials, (2) identification would be only for movement (train, convoy, or individual vehicle) and not for personnel, and (3) documentary identification shown would not be allowed to come into hands of GDR officials.

REPEAT NOT

(d) As indicated Department's 1985 to Bonn we do not/believe we could permit GDR personnel place time stamp on document or separate piece of paper.

Defense concurs.

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